

**Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial  
General Membership Meeting  
August 9, 2011**

Fifty members attended the mid-year general membership meeting of the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial. The evening began with a pre-view tour of the Gateway Shelter and Memorial Plaza led by Site Manager Jeff Reinbold. The group then met on the deck at the National Park Service Headquarters building for a brief business meeting followed by refreshments.

President Jerry Spangler welcomed members to the business meeting and established that a quorum of the membership was present.

I. Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet, as of July 31, 2011:

Checking:	\$17,486.08
CD:	2,690.56

Corporate and individual donations for fiscal year to date (October 1- July 31, 2011): \$15,904. Donations from individuals ranged from \$10 to \$2,150.

The Friends have received \$23,459 in grants and gifts from foundations, including:

- First Energy Foundation (Penelec): \$5,000
- Somerset County Tourism Grant: \$5,000
- National Environmental Education Foundation Grant: \$5,000
- Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund: \$1,000
- Wheeler Family Charities Foundation: \$2,500
- National Park Foundation (reimbursement for costs of 9/11/10 reception): \$5,900

II. Completed Projects/Activities

- A. Landscaping Project – Ed Bowersox reported on the successful planting of trees, shrubs, and seedlings at the NPS Headquarters Building in April with donations from local businesses. The plantings were supplemented with additional trees and earthmoving by the memorial's landscaping contractor.
- B. Hospitality Industry Tours and Rack Cards - Jeff Reinbold reported on the memorial pre-view tours that were offered in May to the region's hospitality industry. These tours, information packets provided to each business, and the printing and distribution of 15,250 rack cards were funded through the County Tourism Grant which the Friends received this year. The rack cards are distributed through the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau network of brochure racks and welcome centers throughout Pennsylvania.
- C. Flag-Flying Fundraising Initiative - Page Wetterberg reported that the Friends have flown 800 flags over the memorial and will be shipping them to the National Park Foundation (NPF) to fulfill orders from donors.

- D. Thunder in the Valley – Ralph Couey reported that those who staffed the booth at this motorcycle rally were able to provide information about the memorial and driving directions to many, but sales of merchandise were less than expected. The net income for the event is \$1,281, after applying a booth sponsorship contribution from a member of the Friends and one-half of the cost of the cost of the pins and patches ordered to sell at the booth. The Friends also sold T-shirts, caps, books, and flags on consignment, and DVDs donated by Friends member Mal Fuller. The Friends purchased a banner, lights, and tent side curtains which can be used at future events.
- E. Postmasters Convention Luncheon -Kathie Shaffer reported a profit of \$1,052 on the June luncheon served to 277 people, many of them Pennsylvania Postmasters, who gathered at the Shanksville Grove to create a Living Flag as a fundraiser for the memorial campaign. Twenty new members joined the Friends at this event. Donations were received from local businesses.
- F. NEEF Grant – Donna Glessner reported on a \$5000 grant received from the National Environmental Education Foundation which will be used to develop a logo for the Friends and then apply that logo to various communications materials including a membership brochure, newsletter template, and correspondence package. She unveiled a draft version of the new logo which has been selected.

### III. Reports on Upcoming Projects

- A. America's 9/11 Ride Booth – Ralph Couey noted that the Friends have been invited to have an information and sales booth in Somerset where 1,700 or more motorcycles will gather to begin America's 9/11 Ride on August 18. Volunteers signed up to staff the booth. Pins, patches, t-shirts, caps, DVDs and flags will be available for sale.
- B. September 10-11 ceremonies – Jeff Reinbold provided an overview of the weekend's events and Lladel Lichty described the luminaria display which is the Friends project for Saturday evening, September 10. Volunteers signed up to fill the bags with sand on September 7 and to place, light, tend, and remove the lights on September 10. The costs of the event have been covered by donations from Friends.
- C. Public Lands Day – Kathie Shaffer reported on a tentative plan to hold an event at Flight 93 National Memorial on September 24 in recognition of Public Lands Day. The event may include a work project followed by a members-only walk.
- D. Membership Dues – Jerry Spangler described the board's decision to establish membership dues payable prior to the Annual Meeting on November 5. Dues have been set at \$25 per individual, and \$40 per couple. A sponsor-level of membership has been established at \$93 and corporate sponsorship at \$250. A committee of the board is continuing to refine member benefits and create a membership brochure.
- E. Forum – Ginny Barnett, co-chair of the Education Committee, reported on the October 6 "September 11 Forum: Impact on Young Children" to be held at Saint Vincent College near Latrobe. The Friends will sponsor this all-day event together with the National Park Service, the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning, and Saint Vincent College. It is open to teachers, parents, and anyone who works with

young children. The Forum planners recognize that the images and stories of September 11, 2001 can raise many questions and reactions in young children. The forum will address how one can respond to the potential concerns of children ages 5-9. The principles and concepts presented can be applied to other difficult situations such as grief, loss, and tragic news. Panelists represent the Families of Flight 93, the National Park Service, the Fred Rogers Company, Carlow University, the Highmark Caring Place, the University of Pittsburgh, and Shanksville-Stonycreek School District. Gordon Felt, President of the Families of Flight 93 and member of the Friends, will provide opening and closing remarks. A \$20 registration fee will be charged. The committee is seeking grants to underwrite the costs of the Forum. For more information or to register: <http://www.stvincent.edu/events/september-11-symposium-online-registration>

- F. Future Volunteer Opportunities – Jeff Reinbold closed this portion of the meeting with a general discussion of the heightened need for volunteers and support projects of all types once the memorial opens. Visitation and visitor expectations will be high. NPS staff and the Friends Board will work together to design programs and projects for the coming year to help meet these needs and involve the members.

#### IV. By-Laws amendment

President Jerry Spangler presented a proposed amendment to the Friends By-Laws moving the Annual Membership Meeting from the first Monday in December to the first Saturday in November. The reason for this change is to (hopefully) avoid inclement weather which would limit attendance. The exact wording of the By-Laws change is presented below.

##### Proposed Amendment to Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial By-Laws

###### Current provision

**§ 4.5 Annual membership meeting**—A meeting of members shall be held on the first Monday in December at a location to be determined by the board of directors.

###### Proposed Revision

**§ 4.5 Annual membership meeting**—A meeting of members shall be held on the first *Saturday* in *November* at a location to be determined by the board of directors.

A motion to amend the by-laws as suggested was made by Ralph Couey, seconded by Bob Way, and passed by the membership.

#### V. Announcements/Adjournment

Members expressed appreciation for the Memorial Pre-view Tour and the opportunity to meet at the Headquarters building.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting of the general membership will be Saturday, November 5 at 2 PM at the NPS planning office at 109 W. Main Street, Somerset.